

To: CN=Tom Hagler/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
Cc: CN=Karen Schwinn/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
Bcc: []
From: CN=Roger Gorke/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Mon 2/27/2012 9:23:02 PM
Subject: Re: Fw: Question from HQ OCIR on Westlands Water District

Thanks for the heads up. Is this for a meeting here or out there?

I do remember Catherine.

Roger Gorke
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From: Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US
To: Roger Gorke/DC/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/27/2012 04:09 PM
Subject: Fw: Question from HQ OCIR on Westlands Water District

FYI. We may want to talk if you actually have a HQs level meeting with Westlands.

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----- Forwarded by Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US on 02/27/2012 01:08 PM -----

From: Tom Hagler/R9/USEPA/US
To: Brent Maier/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Carolyn Levine/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Jim Vreeland/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Karen Schwinn/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Kathleen Goforth/R9/USEPA/US@EPA

Date: 02/27/2012 01:05 PM
Subject: Re: Question from HQ OCIR on Westlands Water District

Some background is in order, since the incoming question seems to have come from someone unfamiliar with California water issues.

Westlands is part of a coalition of Delta water exporters who have financed the development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) over the past five years. The BDCP is an ESA HCP under federal law and a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under California law. It is a massive effort that has already spent \$200 million on planning, according to today's paper.

The cornerstone of the BDCP is the construction of a peripheral canal or tunnel to route Sacramento River around the Delta to the export pumps. The current Delta configuration takes the water directly from the Delta. That is, the water goes through the Delta on its way to the export pumps. Westlands, along with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Kern County Water Agency, are some of the larger water exporters that would use the new conveyance facility. The BDCP would also spend some large quantity of money to restore some large quantity of tidal aquatic habitat in the Delta area.

The BDCP is being managed by a group of consultants paid for by the water contractors and working closely with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The federal government has been represented in the process primarily by DOI (the Bureau of Reclamation and USFWS) and Commerce (NMFS). It has also been the subject of ongoing meetings with CEQ. EPA has been a cooperating agency on the associated NEPA review for a number of years, and has also been working with DWR and the Corps on potential permitting approaches under CWA 404.

The coalition of water exporters sponsoring the BDCP has been back to Washington on a regular basis, individually and in groups. During these visits, they have occasionally met with EPA HQs. They frequently go as a group that includes NGOs working on the project. Roger Gorke in the Office of Water can probably give you a complete list of those HQs meetings. Various representatives have also been in to talk with the Regional Administrator under both the current and the last administration (this effort began in 2006).

So the short answer to the inquiry is that EPA (through primarily the Office of Water at HQs and the Water Division at the Regional level) has talked with the water export community (including Westlands) about the BDCP many times at many levels, both at HQs and in the Region. The Region is part of the federal team working to move the BDCP process forward, and in doing so has essentially weekly meetings with the BDCP managers (both consultants and DWR).

BDCP is moving towards trying to announce a proposed project this summer, and in conjunction with that is releasing early drafts of both the BDCP plan itself (the HCP) and the associated EIS/EIR this week. That is probably why we are all seeing additional outreach efforts by individual members of the water exporter community (such as Westlands). We may also expect to see additional outreach efforts from the other interest groups, both in Congress and otherwise. We generally talk to anyone who asks.

Hope that is useful. If you have any questions or need additional background, feel free to call me or Karen Schwinn, Associate Director of the Water Division, who is the program lead for this project. Her number is (415)972-3472.

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Cc: Carolyn Levine/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Jim Vreeland/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/27/2012 11:28 AM
Subject: Question from HQ OCIR on Westlands Water District

Please see the attached question from a colleague in HQ Congressional regarding whether our NEPA or Water Division has been talking with the Westlands Water District. Please provide any recent contacts that would respond to Carolyn Levine's inquiry. Thanks in advance.

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----- Forwarded by Brent Maier/R9/USEPA/US on 02/27/2012 11:25 AM -----

From: Carolyn Levine/DC/USEPA/US
To: Brent Maier/R9/USEPA/US@EPA, Jim Vreeland/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/27/2012 10:57 AM
Subject: Westlands Water District

Can you please check with your NEPA or water program folks to see if they've talked to the Westlands Water District? Our former OCIR DAA, Catherine Sulzer (now Catherine Karen) would like to facilitate a meeting with her client- Wetlands Water District-which gets its water delivered through the Central Valley Project. They are looking to construct a canal/tunnel for water down from the delta. Apparently they are also involved in the development of the Conservation Bay delta Plan. I might be mixing things up, but before I inquire at HQ for a meeting with NEPA folks, I wanted to check what the region's involvement/communication-if any, has been with Westlands. Can you let me know if we have been talking to them already? thank you!

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